

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Captain Joshua T. Byers, United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud of these valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of our Nation's citizens continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Army; sadly, many of these honored defenders of our Nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout history; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2003, Captain Joshua T. Byers, United States Army, lost his life while conducting combat operations in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son and husband, Joshua Byers was a graduate of Reed High School in Sparks, Nevada; in May of 1996, he graduated from West Point with an economics degree; and

WHEREAS, following his college education, Captain Byers attended the Armor Officer Basic Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and completed the Airborne and Ranger schools at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1997; and

WHEREAS, he became a Tank Platoon Leader on June 3, 1997, and was later made a Support Platoon Leader and Executive Officer while serving in Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Captain Joshua Byers completed the Engineer Officer Advanced Course and the Combined Arts and Services Staff School; he also graduated from the University of Missouri, Rolla in 2001 with a master's degree in engineering; and

WHEREAS, Captain Byers then served as the Assistant Secretary and Aide de Camp to Generals Soriano and Campbell at Fort Carson, Colorado, before being assigned as Sabre Squadron's Assistant S-3 Officer on October 28, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Captain Joshua Byers took command of Fox Troop in June of 2003, while serving in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Captain Byers's distinguished military career earned him many awards and medals, including the Bronze Star with V Device, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army of Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Ranger Tab, the Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the United States Army, Captain Byers proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of citizen-soldier; he served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Captain Byers was also deeply devoted to his family, to whom he will always remain a hero, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Captain Joshua Byers enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Kim, and he is further survived by his parents, Lloyd and Mary Byers, and his brothers, Milam and Jared; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Byers's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Captain Joshua T. Byers, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Captain Joshua T. Byers, reflecting upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and his ultimate sacrifice for his country as a member of the United States Army.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Captain Byers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.